(c) developing the image into the radiation-sensitive layer; and

(d) transferring the image into the substrate to form a transducer slider having a surface profile comprising a tapered edge.

A1

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step (a) comprises spin coating a] the radiation-sensitive composition is spin coated on the substrate.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, [further comprising, after step (a) and before step (b), (a') applying] wherein heat is applied to the radiation-sensitive layer after (a) and before (b).

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein [step (a')] the application of heat results in solvent evaporation from the radiation-sensitive layer.

A2

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, [further comprising, after step (b) and before step (c), (b')] wherein [applying] a solvent is applied to the radiation-sensitive layer after (b) and before (c).

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the image is developed into the exposed portion of the radiation-sensitive layer by the solvent [develops the exposed portion of the radiation-sensitive layer in step] during (c).

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step (c) comprises exposing] the substrate is exposed to an etchant during (c).

A3

22. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step (d) further comprises] simultaneous removal of the patterned layer is carried out during (d).

A4

34. (Amended) A method for producing a plurality of transducer sliders, comprising [the steps of]:

(a) coating a substrate with a photosensitive layer;